

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

URGENT ACTION

August 22, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM: MARY BROWNELL *MB*

SUBJECT: Message to Governor Reagan on Tiajuana River
Flood Control Project

Attached at Tab B in response to your request to State is a memorandum from State outlining the basic problem raised by San Diego Mayor Wilson in his letter to Mrs. Armstrong. It forwards a suggested message to be used as the basis of a phone call or a telegram to Governor Reagan from either Mrs. Armstrong or yourself, urging his efforts with the California State Legislature to obtain approval this session of \$4.7 million needed to enable the City of San Diego to meet most of its pledge toward the Tijuana Flood Control Project. Unless the funds are appropriated (the legislature adjourns August 30) at the municipal-state level, it will not be possible to justify the matching federal monies to cover the balance of the cost of the works.

The project is an important one to Mexico. We reached an agreement with the Mexican Government in June 1967 to build the joint project, aimed at preventing flood damage in both countries. In 1970 Mexico was given authorization to go ahead and build the works on their side of the border. Those works have been completed. We therefore have a commitment to Mexico to fulfill our side of the agreement. Should there be a flood in the meantime, the Mexican public would hold the U. S. responsible for any flood damage in Mexico.

Assistant Secretary of State Jack Kubisch sent a letter (also at Tab B) to Governor Reagan on August 16 expressing concern over a reported decrease in anticipated state funding for the project and asking the Governor's personal intervention to secure funding adequate to enable San Diego to meet its commitments for the project. Since that time the State Legislature Committee has deferred its scheduled hearing on the funding legislation. Without the Governor's intervention, the legislature probably will not act on the funding problem before adjourning for the year. The San Diego mayor has therefore asked for White House support to reinforce Kubisch's expression of concern and interest.

In view of our commitments to Mexico, I agree with State's recommendation that such an expression of support be made. I recommend that you handle it by calling Governor Reagan and making the following points:

- You understand that Assistant Secretary of State Kubisch has communicated with the Governor regarding the State Department's hope for timely action by the California State Legislature to provide adequate funds for San Diego to meet its commitments for the International Tiajuana River Flood Control Project.
- We are concerned that, should there be a major flood, there would probably be damage in Mexico as well as in the U.S., damage for which the Mexican public would hold the United States responsible. We therefore place priority on timely construction of our portion of this project.
- You now understand the State Legislature may adjourn without acting on the subject. You wish to indicate the importance which the White House places on securing construction of the project and express your hope that he will assist in assuring favorable action by the Legislature before it adjourns in securing the necessary funds.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you call Governor Reagan to make the above points.

Approve *Dove* Disapprove _____

Alternately, that you or Mrs. Armstrong send Governor Reagan the telegram at Tab A urging his support for funding from the State Legislature.

Approve, I will send _____

Approve, Mrs. Armstrong will send _____

Disapprove _____

Attachments:

- Tab A -- Suggested Telegram
- Tab B -- State Back-up Memo

SUGGESTED TELEGRAM

The Honorable Ronald Reagan
Governor of California
Sacramento

I have been informed that Committee Hearings scheduled by the California State Legislature on legislation which would enable the City of San Diego to fulfill its obligations in connection with the International Tijuana River Flood Control Project have been deferred. I further understand that at this late date in the current session of the Legislature, San Diego will have difficulty in securing adoption of its proposal. We regard construction of this project as important both because of the benefits it will provide and because of our commitments to Mexico to complete the joint project. In the event of a major flood before completion of the project, there would probably be damage in Mexico as well as in the United States, damage for which the Mexican public would hold the U. S. responsible. We therefore urge you to assist San Diego in its efforts to obtain during this session of the Legislature the funding necessary to do its part in securing construction of the flood control project.

(from) _____



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, U.C. 20520

S/S 7415830

Nsc 3597

August 22, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR MAJOR GENERAL BRENT SCOWCROFT
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Tiajuana River Flood Control Project

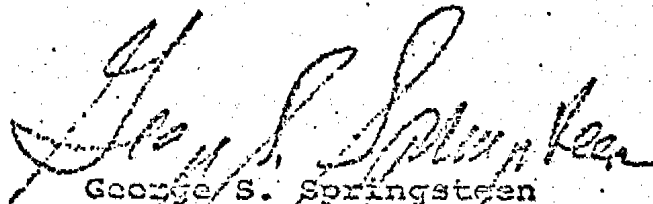
The letter from San Diego Mayor Wilson to Mrs. Armstrong is a plea for White House support in persuading Governor Reagan to use his influence with the California State Legislature to obtain approval of sufficient funds which, together with municipal resources, would enable the City of San Diego to meet most of its pledge toward the Tiajuana River Flood Control Project. Such White House action would be supportive of a message sent by Assistant Secretary Jack Kubisch to Governor Reagan on August 16, 1974, expressing concern over a reported decrease in the anticipated state funding of the project and asking for his personal intervention with the State Legislature in the matter. (Copy of Kubisch to Reagan message is attached.) We understand that the legislature will recess on August 30 and without the Governor's intervention will not act on the funding problem. What is required is not only timely action by the legislature but also adequate funding to enable San Diego to meet its commitments.

The flood control project, being carried forward under the aegis of the U.S.-Mexico Boundary and Water Commission, is of great importance to Mexico. The Mexicans have completed the works on their side of the border and are looking to us to construct our section. In order for us to do this, we are awaiting municipal-state action to provide the rights of way and sufficient funds (at least the \$4.7 million pledged earlier) to justify before our Congress matching federal monies to cover the balance of the cost of the works.

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In our judgment the importance of the U.S. living up to its end of bargain in this joint U.S.-Mexico project would justify supportive White House action for what U.S. Commissioner Freidkin and the Department have already done with California municipal and state authorities.

Attached is a suggested message which might be sent to Governor Reagan or used as the basis for a telephone call.


George S. Springsteen
Executive Secretary

Attachments:

1. Kubisch to Reagan message
2. Suggested message to Governor Reagan

Suggested Telegram to Governor Reagan

State Department informs us that after Assistant Secretary Kubisch sent his telegram to you of August 16 regarding the International Tijuana River Flood Control Project, it was learned that a Committee of the State Legislature had deferred its scheduled hearing on legislation which would enable the City of San Diego to fulfill its obligations undertaken in connection with the project. We understand that at this late date in the current session of the Legislature, San Diego will have difficulty in securing adoption of its proposal. We are concerned that in the event of a major flood, there would probably be damage in Mexico for which the Mexican public would hold the United States responsible. We wish to add our voice to that of the State Department in urging you to assist San Diego directly and through the Legislature in this attempt to do its part in securing construction of the project.



Department of State

TELEGRAM

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MEXICAN AFFAIRS

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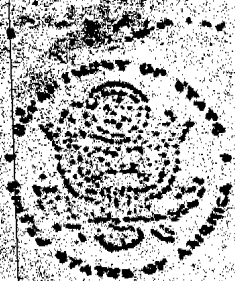
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P 151541Z AUG 74
FM GOVSTATE WASHDC
TO THE HONORABLE RONALD REAGAN GOVERNOR OF
CALIFORNIA SACRAMENTO

UNCLAS STATE 179392

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PSOR, MX
SUBJECT: TIJUANA RIVER FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT

1. APPRECIATING YOUR LETTER OF JULY 18, I ASKED COMMISSIONER FRIEDKIN OF THE INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION TO CONFER AGAIN WITH MAYOR WILSON OF SAN DIEGO REGARDING THE INTERNATIONAL TIJUANA RIVER FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT. THE MAYOR INFORMED FRIEDKIN OF MEETINGS THAT HAD BEEN HELD WITH STATE AUTHORITIES, AND OF THE UNDERSTANDING THAT HAD BEEN REACHED WITH THEM WHEREBY THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO AND THE STATE COULD CONTRIBUTE 4.7 MILLION DOLLARS TOWARD THE PROJECT, SUBJECT TO THE ENACTMENT OF APPROPRIATE STATE LEGISLATION. BELIEVING



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THAT THIS AMOUNT MIGHT BE REGARDED AS MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE ACT OF CONGRESS AUTHORIZING THE PROJECT, FRIEDKIN HASTENED TO WASHINGTON TO ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN FEDERAL ACCEPTANCE OF THIS PROPOSAL, SO THAT THE STATE LEGISLATURE MIGHT BE SO INFORMED AT HEARINGS SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 28.

WHILE STILL ENGAGED HERE COMMISSIONER FRIEDKIN HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT THE CITY'S OFFER HAS BASED ON A MISCALCULATION AND THAT THE STATE AND HENCE THE CITY MUST REDUCE THE OFFER BY 1.6 MILLION. THIS REDUCTION WOULD MEAN THAT THE CITY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO SATISFY THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENT OF THE U. S. CONGRESS, NAMELY, THE FURNISHING OF THE RIGHTS OF WAY. THE RESULT WOULD NOT

BE COMMENSURATE WITH THE BENEFITS TO THE CITY AND THE STATE AS HAS DISCUSSED AT THE RECENT MEETING OF FRIEDKIN WITH THE MAYOR.

PLEASED WITH THE CITY'S FIRST OFFER, THE DEPARTMENT IS MOST DISAPPOINTED TO LEARN OF THE POSSIBLE REDUCTION. ALTHOUGH I CANNOT OF COURSE SPEAK FOR THE CONGRESS, I MUST STATE THAT SUCH A REDUCTION FROM THE 4.7 MILLION FIGURE MAY WELL MAKE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN OFFER THAT ALL FEDERAL AUTHORITIES MAY ACCEPT WITHIN THE ACT OF CONGRESS AND AN OFFER THAT THEY WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY REJECT. IT WOULD BE MOST UNFORTUNATE IF WE SHOULD JEOPARDIZE THE PROJECT AT THIS STAGE BECAUSE OF THE CITY OR THE STATE NOT CARRYING OUT THEIR PROPOSAL.

I HOPE THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA WILL URGENTLY RECONSIDER AND WILL PROVIDE ALL THE ASSISTANCE IT POSSIBLY CAN TO THE CITY IN THIS DOMESTICALLY DIFFICULT BUT INTERNATIONALLY VERY IMPORTANT MATTER. BECAUSE THE STATE LEGISLATURE ADJOURNS AT THE END OF THE MONTH, PLEASE LET ME HAVE YOUR FURTHER VIEWS BY TELEGRAM.

JACK B. KUBISCH
ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR
INTER AMERICAN AFFAIRS

KISSINGER